



Saint Bede's

Catholic High School

Newsletter – December 2021

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Prayer

Loving Father, the whole world looks with eagerness to the celebration of the birthday of Jesus. May we, in our lives, know the real meaning of Christmas and find it in the joy and peace that your Son promises to all who follow him. Grant this prayer through Christ, Our Lord, Amen.



Reflection

Christmas is the time for giving and sharing because God so loved us that he gave his only Son, not just to his friends but to everyone. So, people are generous to each other at Christmas. However, we should not give just to receive something in return; that is not generosity but simple exchange or trading. If we are to call ourselves 'Christ's friends' we should give - even the smallest gesture - without expecting anything in return, especially to those who may not be our friends. Christmas is a time to lay down our differences and be reconciled.





Dear Pupils, Parents and Carers

A quite extraordinary 2021 is drawing to a close as we approach the Christmas break. I must, once again, pay tribute to the remarkable resilience our pupils have shown – initially during the huge disruption of lockdown and full remote learning at the beginning of the year, through to the ongoing challenges of self-isolation and continuing COVID-19 precautions this term. We hope and pray that 2022 will see further progress with the pandemic nationally and globally, and we will certainly do all we can to provide as ‘normal’ and fulfilling school experience for every pupil – this is the least they deserve.

Amidst the challenging circumstances it has been a joyful end to the term. A particular highlight was our Christmas Carol Service, indeed it was a truly moving experience to be together once again (although the first time for me of course!) in the beautiful surroundings of St Peter’s to celebrate the miracle of Christ’s birth. As I write, our pupils have just been enjoying the festivities of the traditional Saint Bede’s Christmas lunch, also making a welcome return to the school calendar after a year’s hiatus. Year 11 also have reason to celebrate as they reach the end of a busy period of exams, during which I have been greatly impressed by their maturity and diligence. We look forward to sharing in their success next summer!

We say farewell at the end of term to Mr Love after many years leading Business Studies with distinction, and to Mrs Mottram who has made a valued contribution in Food Preparation and Nutrition this term. Thank you to both of you for your service and we wish you well in your new ventures. Thank you also to all of my colleagues, our Governors and all our parents, carers and families for your support over the course of the year.

I wish you all a happy, peaceful and holy Christmas.

Best wishes

Mr Marsden
Headteacher

Staff Farewell

Mr Love: We are saying goodbye to Mr Love who leaves us at the end of this term to move to another school. Mr Love joined the school in 2008 and has been Subject Leader for Business Studies achieving excellent results in this popular options subject. He has also been Subject Leader for Careers, building excellent links with employers across the Fylde. We wish him well for the future.

We are grateful to **Mrs Mottram** who has taught Food Preparation and Nutrition classes during the past term to provide cover until a new permanent member of staff (Mrs Horan) takes over after Christmas. It is a testimony to Mrs Mottram that she has built such strong, positive working relationships with pupils and staff in such a short space of time.



Chaplaincy News

Afghan Appeal

In response to the Fylde Council call out, we sent an appeal to all in our school community to donate, shoes, clothes, toiletries and books for the Afghan families due to be housed in the area. The response was overwhelming and two minibus deliveries needed to be made. The first load was taken to Homestart in St. Annes and the second load was taken to the Salvation Army by members of the SVP group. It was heartbreaking to see the queues of families queueing round the block to exchange their council vouchers for necessities and packing them into the one suitcase they are allocated to receive in preparation for the next move in a few days' time. Many of the parents were hoping for toys to settle their young children and we were all moved to see the reaction of one family when they received a magic set. Seeing the numbers of men, women and children, it seemed such a desperate situation but we were consoled by the fact that even in some small way we had done something to ease their burdens.



SVP Elections

We are pleased to announce that through democratic election the following pupils have been appointed to the senior leadership roles within the SVP Group 2021 - 2022

President - Evie Y9

Secretary - Ellie Y8

Vice President - Edie Y8

Treasurer - Elliott Y8

Communications (Articles) - Ava Y8

(Photos) - Maisie Y9

Bede Green Team

Bede Green Team have been energetically working in the school grounds at the back of the science block and in front of the reception and they were surprised by their strength as they reclaimed the raised beds achieving some remarkable results, so we look forward to enjoying some fabulous blooms and a shock of colour after the dark gloom of winter. This is our current squad photo but everyone is welcome to join us on Thursday lunchtimes in the BEC. Obviously our photographer is missing off the squad photo so we thank Jess in Year 9 for documenting our journey so well this year.





Squirrels and Trees

When we met last week we searched the grounds for a good location for our squirrel feeders (so expertly made by Mr Shaw) so we could help the squirrels prepare for hibernation this winter. We attached one feeder to the front of an oak and the other to a sycamore tree, both which can be seen from the English rooms on the ground floor and from the Geography, Inclusion, History and Maths rooms. We wonder if anyone has spotted the squirrels feeding from them lately? They are intelligent creatures so this can be quite entertaining. A BIG thank you to Mr Shaw and Miss Ince, for helping our team out.

On the same day, we all adopted a tree. 'Abit out there!' you might be thinking, but there's method in the madness. We each promised to look after the area around the tree and to observe what is happening through the year. We all gave our trees names and will receive adoption certificates and tree journals at the end of term.



SVP

SVP had an idea to spread some COVID safe Christmas cheer by sending Christmas cards to the Retired Sisters of the Cross and Passion and to the residents of Stella Matutina Nursing Home. They wrote one card for each resident with a few words to keep them up to date with life at Saint Bede's and finished with a little Christmas message. Emily wrote the most cards in the fastest time, no one could keep up with her! Here's a photo of the team in action.



Saint Bede's festive vocabulary quest:

The final weeks of term saw the introduction of this competitive literacy initiative based around the intention of improving pupils' tier 2 vocabulary knowledge.

Mrs Blackburn assigned all members of staff with a word. Their job was to promote it; pupils had to remember as many as they could. The member of staff who promoted their word most effectively won the staff prize; the form group in each year group who successfully recalled the most words, and their definition, won the form prize.

Competitiveness definitely took over: classroom doors were adorned with displays of ambitious vocabulary and random words were being shouted out in corridors as pupils scrambled to write down as many words as they could. Even a certain Maths teacher was seen standing outside his door with his word emblazoned on a plaque. Pupils could not pass without seeing it! Results will be announced in the next newsletter.



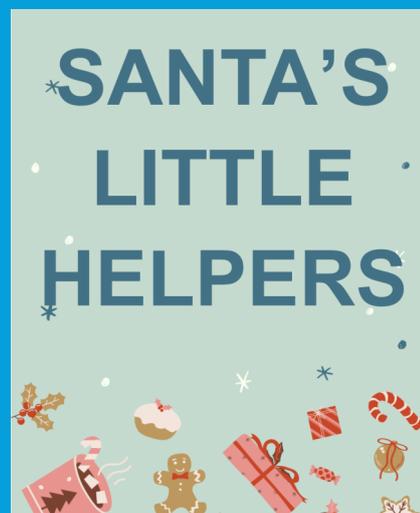
Post-16 Options Evening

At the start of this half term, we were fortunate to welcome over 35: further education providers; higher education providers and employers to Saint Bede's for our annual 'Post-16 Options Evening'. The event, aimed at Years 10 and 11, gave students and parents the chance to discuss possible career paths with people from a range of industries including: paramedics, the Army, the Royal Air Force, clinical psychology, law, sports journalism, engineering, social care and many, many more. All our visitors were extremely positive about their interactions with our students.



BBC Bitesize Roadshow

On Thursday 25th November, the 'BBC Bitesize Roadshow' stopped off at Saint Bede's! All year groups were treated to a session with the team from BBC Bitesize based around the topic of careers in STEAM and innovation. The panel for our visit included the President of 'Modern English' a company which uses technology working within the music industry; a local BBC radio producer and journalist; and a designer from a plastics company producing interiors for high-end cars. The panel shared their individual career journeys and experiences with our students who also had an opportunity to pose their own questions as well. The event was a real success, and we hope to welcome the BBC Bitesize team back soon.



Santa's Little Helpers



At the end of the term, the Careers team held a competition to find our Saint Bede's Santa (from KS4) and our Head Elf (from KS3). Students were required to read a job specification; submit a letter of application and a video or voice recording demonstrating why they were the best for each position, respectively. The winners will be announced when we return in January and will receive a voucher as a late Christmas treat.



Reduce, Reuse, Recycle - We all have our part to play

Inspired by Pope Francis' encyclical **Laudato Si**, the **YCW Impact Action Group** which is facilitated by Terry Mattinson our Youth Worker has established a **recycling scheme** across the whole school. Ava in Year 7 came up with the idea and firstly she presented her idea to the rest of the Group and with the support of the Head Girl, Isabelle they presented the group's proposal to Mr Marsden. Mr Marsden gave his backing to the scheme.

The scheme is simple, it means every room in school has a reused cardboard box, so that we can all put our wastepaper and cardboard in. Twice a week (Tuesday and Thursday) recycling reps from every form and year group empty the boxes into the recycling bins. It has been such a great success that instead of sending huge amounts of used paper and cardboard to landfill, the overwhelming majority now gets recycled. Many opportunities to recycle in the past have been missed but our young people are filled with a sense of hope; they can't change the past but they can impact the future.

In just the first two weeks of the project, the pupils and staff filled 16 wheelie bins with paper and cardboard. The project has also made us all in the school community think about how much paper we use and this is hopefully making us think about trying to reduce our paper usage, which in turn should over time mean that we then have less paper and cardboard wastage. It is also making us think about our plastic usage and wastage; currently very little plastic is recycled – in 2022 the pupils of the **YCW Impact Action Group** want to encourage the school community to significantly reduce its plastic usage and wastage and were it is used they want to campaign for the ability to be able to recycle it.

Our young people want to make the world a better place, not just for them but also for future generations. Pope Francis reminds us all that each and every one of us have our role to play in being good stewards of God's creation because **Creation is a project of love given by God to humanity**:

'In some ways, the current pandemic has led us to rediscover simpler and sustainable lifestyles. The crisis, in a sense, has given us a chance to develop new ways of living. Already we can see how the earth can recover if we allow it to rest: the air becomes cleaner, the waters clearer, and animals have returned to many places from where they had previously disappeared. The pandemic has brought us to a crossroads. We must use this decisive moment to end our superfluous and destructive goals and activities, and to cultivate values, connections and activities that are life-giving. We must examine our habits of energy usage, consumption, transportation, and diet. We must eliminate the superfluous and destructive aspects of our economies, and nurture life-giving ways to trade, produce, and transport goods' **We all have our part to play**.

Year 7 Advent Retreat

A huge thank you to our Year 7 pupils for their fantastic contributions during our Advent retreat.

During the retreat pupils completed four exciting activities, beginning their day in the Chapel with Paula reflecting on Jesus' commandment to 'love one another.' Pupils created a small acts of kindness advent calendar, where they pledged to 'help around their homes, pick up litter and smile at other pupils.'

During their second workshop with Mrs Lowe, pupils learnt about the use of hunger cloths as a sacred object in Church. Pupils designed their own section of cloth illustrating a theme of Advent – hope, peace, joy or love.

Pupils joined Mr Harding to make their own Christingle, which were first created in 1747 to represent Jesus being the light of the world. Christingles ceremonies are used by several Christian denominations to unite communities in prayer. Year 7 pupils enjoyed learning about the history of the Church and eating all their Christingle sweets.

During their final workshop pupils worked with Miss Newsham to reflect on Bishop Paul Swarbrick's most recent letter, where he encouraged everyone to keep a simple crib in their homes. Pupils created their own stained-glass cribs to take home and to share with families in our local parishes.

All pupils received an achievement award for their generous contributions to St. Bede's Catholic life!



Being A Bede

Parcel Liturgy

During the last half-term, all forms put together Christmas hampers to give to a number of local charities. On Friday, 3rd December, hampers were provided for Fylde Foodbank, SVP, Streetlife, Vincent House, Harbour House and St. Cuthbert's Soup Kitchen and Family Centre at a liturgy attended by Year 10. Representatives from Fylde YMCA, Harbour House and the SVP (St. Peter's) attended the liturgy and thanked our pupils for their contributions. The event was led by Paula and her SVP group, and blessed by Father David. A big thank-you to everyone who so generously donated non-perishable goods to help those who are less fortunate at this time of year.



Christmas Carol Service

We were delighted to be hold our school Carol Service again after last year's enforced absence at St. Peter's R.C. Church in Lytham. It was a superb evening celebrating the true reason for the season. It was a superb evening which highlighted the high calibre of musicianship shown by the pupils and skilled, expressive readings from the Bible and poetry. Mr Warrington who led the evening thanked all who participated and gave up many of their lunchtimes to rehearse.

Christmas Lunch

Our Christmas Lunch held on Thursday, 9th December brought staff and pupils together to enjoy a traditional turkey dinner with all the trimmings! As well as enjoying the fine food, everyone enjoyed pulling crackers and wearing Christmas hats. As always, our dedicated team of catering staff did a wonderful job and helped to get us all into the festive spirit!





Dancing Success

Michael competed in a UDO National Street Dancing competition in Stoke last weekend and was successful in qualifying for the World Championships with his duo.

This is a remarkable achievement and we are very proud of Michael and his fantastic ability. Michael’s dance group is called The House of Wingz Crew.

We wish Michael and his duo the best of luck when he competes in the World Championship next year in August where this will be held at The Winter Gardens.



Drama

It has been a busy term in the Drama department. Clubs are up and running again which is a huge relief and lots of fun after having to close down for Covid. In case you need to know, here are the times of all the clubs:

	Lunch time 12.30 – 1pm	After school
Monday	Liturgical drama and reading practise	Starts In Their Eyes rehearsals
Tuesday	Drama Club (all years)	GCSE rehearsals
Wednesday	GCSE drama homework drop in	Open rehearsal session for anyone
Thursday	GCSE rehearsals	
Friday	Musical Theatre Film Club (all years)	Stars In Their Eyes rehearsals

All clubs take place in the school hall.

GCSE students have been hard at work rehearsing their own plays for the component 1 examination. They devised and performed duologues, monologues and group pieces based on the theme of “control”. The variety of issues, characters, plot lines and styles of theatre was so engaging and thought provoking; superb work year 11!

Year 10 have been learning about different stage spaces and have been “blocking” their set text “DNA” by Dennis Kelly. Key stage three students have been working on a range of dramatic styles, from Commedia dell’Arte in year 8 to the grittier “Theatre of Cruelty” whole class drama of Warden X in year 9.

Our LAMDA teacher Miss McGregor is in school all day Tuesday offering individual and group tuition in acting, public speaking, verse and prose and musical theatre. For more information, contact Miss McGregor at <https://lovelamda.co.uk/> or speak to Mrs King.

Have a wonderful Christmas and see you in January for more drama!

Mrs P King



Sport at Saint Bede's

As a PE department, we are so proud of the sporting achievements which our students take part in, both in and outside of school. This term we are delighted with a number of achievements where some of our pupils have become local and national champions across a range of different sports. Some of our pupils are hoping to inspire change through promoting healthy living and others are working hard to develop a skill doing something they love. We encourage all students to tell Mrs Smith and the PE department about all of their sporting accomplishments in the future.

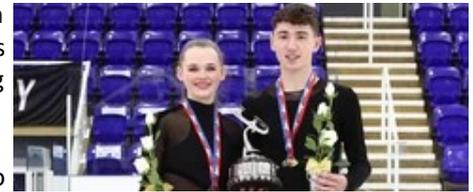
Maya has recently discovered a passion for healthy cooking and fitness. As a result of this it has had such a positive impact on her life and now hopes that after creating an Instagram account ([food.fitness_by_maya](https://www.instagram.com/food.fitness_by_maya)) she can inspire others to feel the same way.



Our netball team played LSA last week. The A team was captained by Gabriella in Year 7 who was outstanding in the field, scoring 13 out of the 14 goals, which led to a win and she got voted Player of the match from the LSA team. The B team also played exceptionally well and was captained by Evie King. The Year 8's played well against LSA last week too. The A team was captained by Beth Sherlock, who also got Player of the Match. Player of the match for the B team went to Alexa Rabie and this team was captained by Lucy Appleton – well done girls.



Well done to our students in Year 10 Archie and Miranda who competed in the British Ice Dance Championships. They became the British Intermediate Ice Dance Champions 2021. They have worked so hard and with such dedication and lots of early morning training to achieve their goal.



This term, pupils from Years 7 and 8 had the opportunity to represent St Bede's in two football tournaments. There were two teams that took part in the tournament at Stanley Park, with the better performing team missing out on the semi-finals by goal difference. The girls impressed on and off the pitch with their effort and enthusiasm!



The Year 11 football team played in the second round of the Lancashire cup against a solid Shuttleworth team and managed to defeat them 7-4, with Frankie ending up with a hat-trick. Good luck in the next round!



This term St Bede's have been involved in badminton fixtures against various schools from the Wyre & Fylde area. All teams competed at high levels and demonstrated some excellent skills. The teams were made up of boys and girls which meant lots of opportunities for pupils to be involved and represent the school. All teams experienced winning games and some occasional losses. Well done to all involved!

Congratulations to the Year 9 football team who beat Southlands 3-0, Stanley was man of the match. The boys now progress to the second round of the Lancashire Cup – good luck!



After Christmas, we have Year 7 and Year 8 indoor athletics competition to look forward to. We had trials last night and over 40 pupils attending, well done everyone and congratulations if you have been selected to represent St Bede's next term.



Important Dates

Year 8 boys and girls 13.01.22 2:30pm-4:30pm Millfield High School

Year 7 boys and girls 21.01.22 2:30pm-4:30pm Cardinal Allen High School

Mr Binns' Maths Challenge

Can you figure out the answer to Mr Binns' newsletter maths challenge? Send your answers to ebinns@stbedeslytham.lancs.sch.uk

Mr Binns' Christmas Challenge 1

- Emily has x presents
- Patrick has 4 more presents than Emily
- Joseph has a third of the presents that Patrick has
- Altogether there are 24 presents between them
- How many presents does Joseph have?



1

A: 2 B: 3 C: 4 D: 8 E: 12

Mr Binns' Christmas Challenge 2

- Father Christmas is delivering cards to a street with numbers from 1 to 50
- The price for each card is the same as the house number, so it would cost 9p for house 9
- Unfortunately, his elves have only got 3p and 5p stamps, so he can only make the money up using those stamps
- So for example, house 8 will get a card as 8p can be made using one 3p stamp and one 5p stamp
- How many houses won't be getting a card from Father Christmas?



2

A: 1 B: 2 C: 3 D: 4 E: 5

Extra Tough!

Mr Binns' Christmas Challenge 3

Tough!

- Mr Binns tells his children that he is going to put a square angled triangle of chocolate in their Christmas stockings
- "What is a square angled triangle?" they ask
- "It is a triangle all of whose angles, in degrees, are square numbers" he replies with a smile
- What are the sizes of the angles in the square angled triangle?

3



Time for Trivia

Can you guess who Miss Beswick is describing?

Key Stage 3 - Who am I?

This character is named after a feature in the night sky and, after witnessing the tragic shooting of her friend, becomes a guiding light in the fight for equality and justice. Character and book title should be submitted.

Key Stage 4 - Who am I?

This ghostly themed character interrogates a family from the upper echelons of society. He puts forward a case for social justice before disappearing into the night among a blaze of fire, blood and anguish.



Email your answers to;

sbeswick@stbedeslytham.lancs.sch.uk

Answers from December newsletter in February Newsletter